



# **Rise of Totalitarianism**

## **Chapter 16**



# Chapter Focus

- What political & economic challenges did the Western world face in the 1920s and 1930s, and how did various countries react to these challenges?

# New Scientific Theories

- Marie Curie and Radioactivity
  - Discovered that certain atoms released charged particles- led to medical advances
- Einstein's Theory of Relativity
  - $E=MC^2$
  - This w/ Curie's discovery led to atomic weapons
- Fleming discovers Penicillin- leading to other antibiotics

# Western Democracies sec. 2

- Britain
  - Power shifts among Labour, Liberal, & Conservative parties
- Ireland
  - Most of Ireland gained freedom from Britain
- France
  - Several political parties fought for power
- US
  - “The Red Scare” fear of Communists in US
  - Isolationism- Congress passed laws limiting immigration

# Postwar Foreign Policy

- France

- Maginot Line- (ma zhee NOH)-massive fortifications along German border
- Strengthened military, sought alliance w/ USSR
- Insisted on strict enforcement of Treaty of Versailles- keeping Germany weak- Britain disagreed wanting to relax the treaty- fearing that France & USSR would become too powerful if Germany became too weak

# Search for Peace

- Kellogg-Briand Pact
  - 1928
  - Signers promised to renounce war as an instrument of national policy, pursued disarmament (the reduction of armed forces & weapons). Many countries agreed to reduce size of navies, but not armies
- League of Nations
  - Encouraged cooperation & tried to get member nations to commit to stop aggression
  - Germany joined in 1926, USSR joined later

## ● Weakness of the League of Nations

- Had no power to stop aggression (neither did the Kellogg-Briand Pact)
- In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria- the League condemned the action, but could not take military action to stop it
- Other nations would take advantage of this weakness

# Postwar Economics

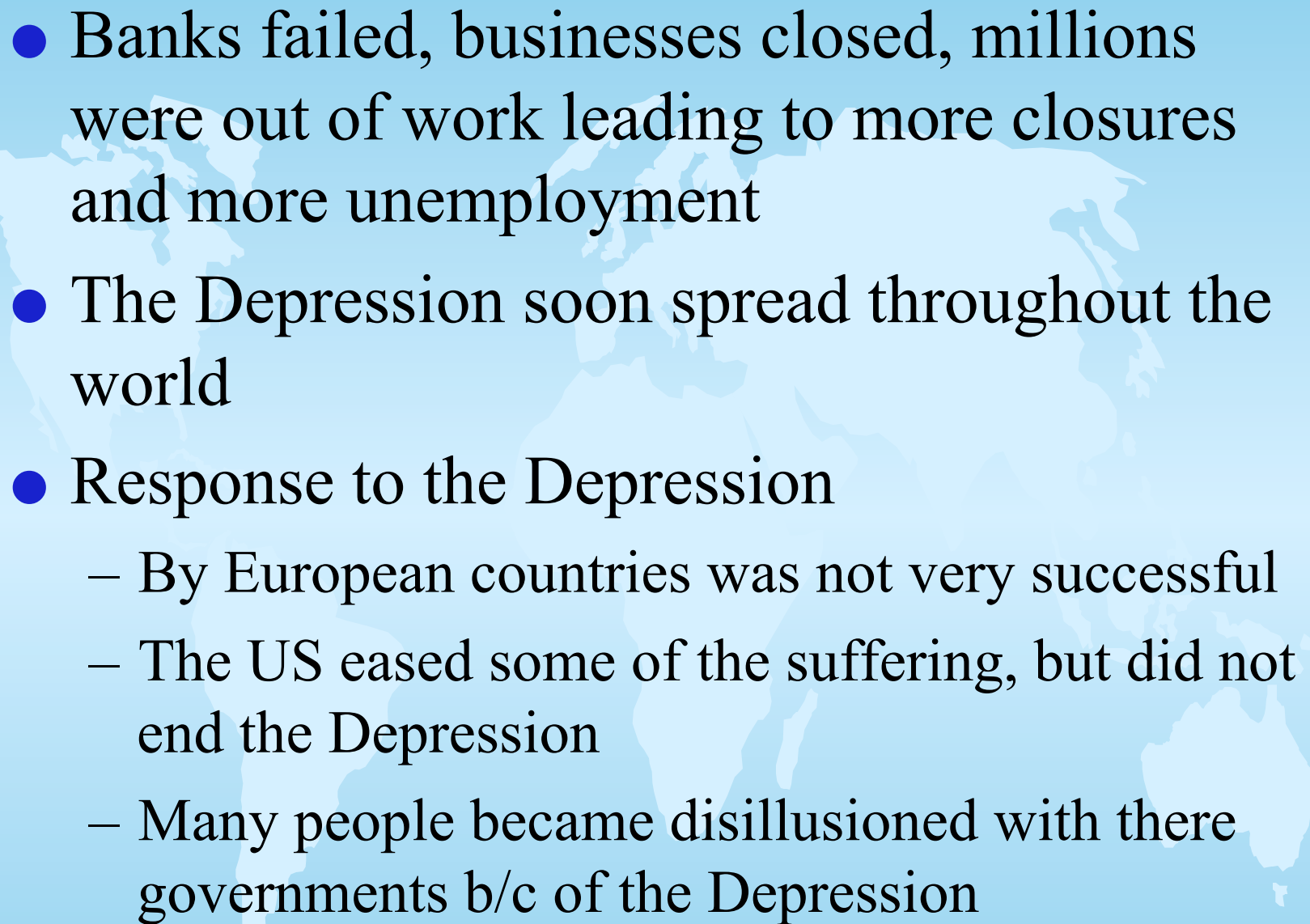


- Britain
  - Huge war debts, factories out of date, high unemployment, frequent strikes
  - 1926 a general strike (a strike of workers in many different industries at the same time) lasted 9 days & involved 3 million workers
- France
  - Recovered more quickly- due to reparations & land from Germany
- US enjoyed an economic boom



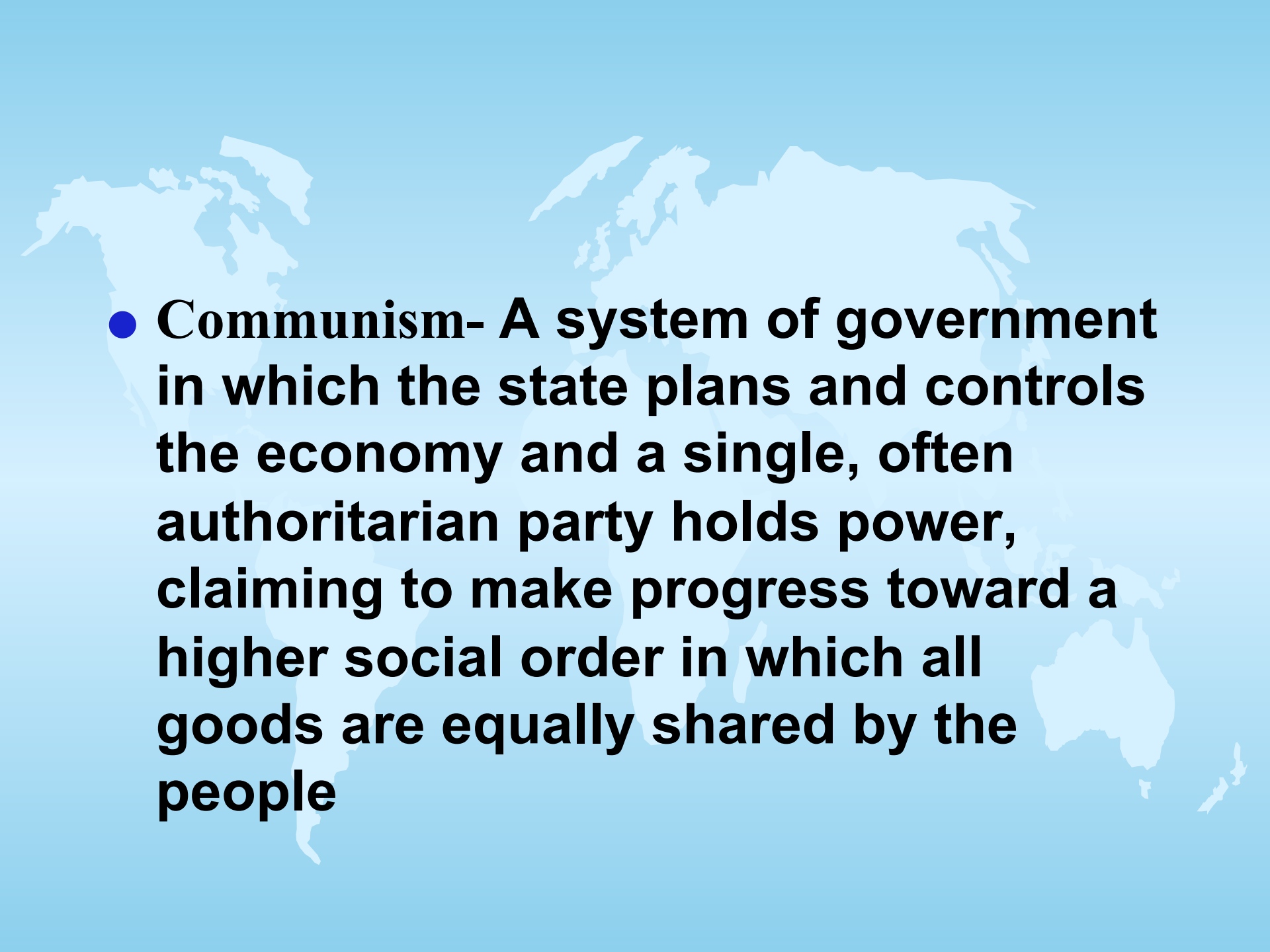
# The Great Depression

- Falling demand for products led to overproduction (a condition in which the production of goods exceeds the demand for them)- leading to unemployment
- Crash & collapse
  - October 1929- jitters about the economy in the US caused many people to sell stock at once, creating financial panic, stock prices crashed wiping out investors- the Great Depression began

- 
- Banks failed, businesses closed, millions were out of work leading to more closures and more unemployment
  - The Depression soon spread throughout the world
  - Response to the Depression
    - By European countries was not very successful
    - The US eased some of the suffering, but did not end the Depression
    - Many people became disillusioned with their governments b/c of the Depression


# Terms

- **Fascism- A system of government marked by centralization of authority under a dictator, stringent socioeconomic controls, suppression of the opposition through terror and censorship, and typically a policy of belligerent nationalism and racism.**

- 
- **Communism- A system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single, often authoritarian party holds power, claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people**

# Fascism vs. Communism

- Fascists were enemies of communists & socialists
- Fascism- pursue national goals, communism- international change
- Fascism- society w/ defined classes, Communism- classless society
- Fascism supported by business leaders, wealthy land owners, & lower middle class
- Communism supported by urban & agricultural workers

- 
- Results were the same- power thru blind devotion to the state w/ usually a charismatic leader
  - Both flourished during economic hard times through extreme programs of social change

# Fascist Dictatorships



- **Totalitarianism- gov' t aimed at total control of every aspect of citizen' s life. Type of dictatorship**

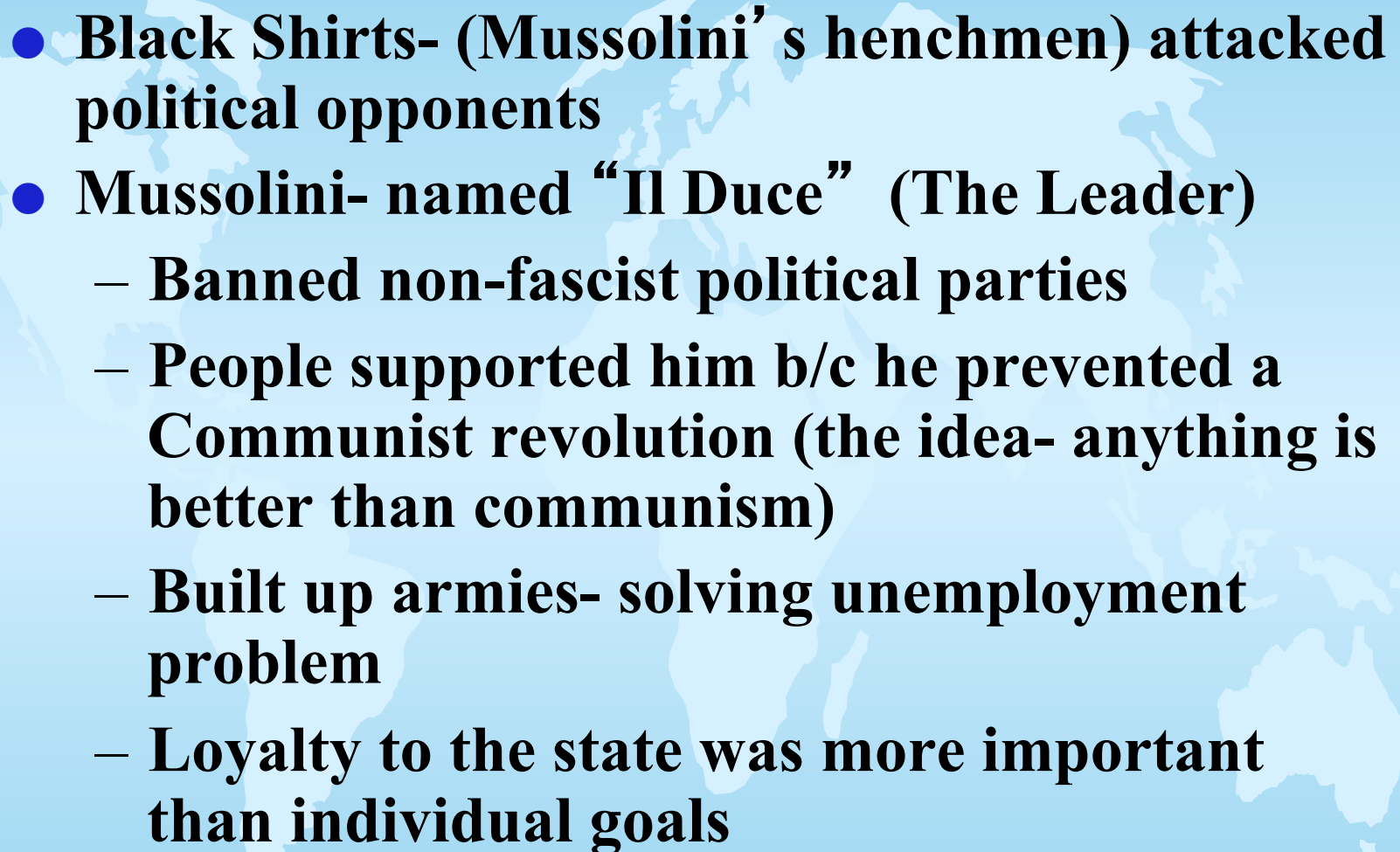
# Italy



- **High Unemployment**
- **1922- Benito Mussolini set up a Fascist Government**
  - **Fascism- A system of government marked by centralization of authority under a dictator, stringent socioeconomic controls, suppression of the opposition through terror and censorship, and typically a policy of belligerent nationalism and racism. Stressed nationalism and military strength**





- 
- **Black Shirts- (Mussolini's henchmen) attacked political opponents**
  - **Mussolini- named "Il Duce" (The Leader)**
    - **Banned non-fascist political parties**
    - **People supported him b/c he prevented a Communist revolution (the idea- anything is better than communism)**
    - **Built up armies- solving unemployment problem**
    - **Loyalty to the state was more important than individual goals**

# Soviet Union

- **27 million died during WWI, revolution & civil war**
- **Transportation in ruins, peasants were revolting, economy close to collapse**
- **Vladimir Lenin emerges as the new leader**
  - **Nationalization of industry (all industry under gov' t control)**
  - **All people 16-50 had to work**

# Five- Year Plans

- **Stalin's economic plan**
- **Brought ALL industry AND agriculture under gov' t control**
- **Provided housing, health care, & other services**
- **Concentrated on heavy industry**
- **Consumer goods- produced in small amounts & were inferior**



- **Collective Farms**

- **System where gov' t owned the land and used peasants to farm it**
- **Some peasants revolted- they were killed or sent to labor camps**

- **Results of 5-year plan**

- **USSR- industrial power**
- **Millions dead (starvation & unrest)**



# Stalin as Dictator

- **Secret Police- had immense power**
- **Purges- attacks on potential enemies**
  - **Millions expelled from party, arrested, sent to Siberia, or shot.**
  - **Est. 20 million people died as a result of Stalin's policies**

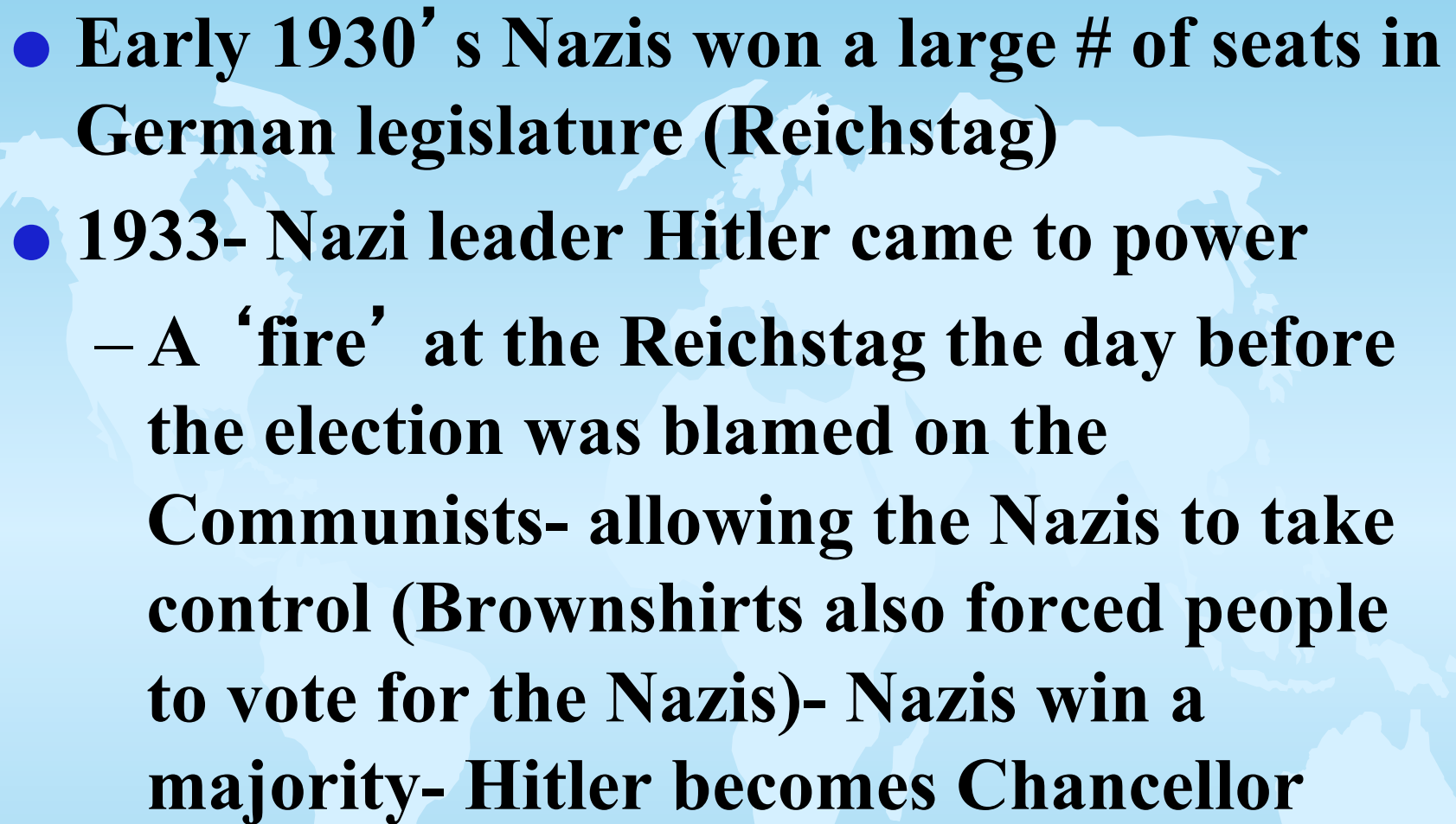
# Germany

- **1919-1933- Weimar Republic**
  - **Democratic republic**
  - **1920- a coup d' etat tried to overthrow gov' t**
  - **Reparations totaling 30 billion dollars**
    - **Gov' t printed more \$ causing high inflation**
      - **1914- 4 German marks= 1 US dollar**
      - **1923- 4 trillion marks = 1 US dollar**



# National Socialist Worker's party (Nazis)

- **Nazism-** The ideology and practice of the Nazis, especially the policy of racist nationalism, national expansion, and state control of the economy
- **Brownshirts** (private Nazi army- street thugs)
- **Hitler attempted a coup & was thrown in jail-** where he wrote his book Mein Kampf (My struggle)- blamed Jews & Communists for losing the war

- 
- **Early 1930' s Nazis won a large # of seats in German legislature (Reichstag)**
  - **1933- Nazi leader Hitler came to power**
    - **A 'fire' at the Reichstag the day before the election was blamed on the Communists- allowing the Nazis to take control (Brownshirts also forced people to vote for the Nazis)- Nazis win a majority- Hitler becomes Chancellor**

# Hitler in Power

- **Stressed nationalism, military strength and persecution of the Jews**
- **All political parties were banned (except Nazis)**
- **Freedom of speech, assembly, press, & religion ended**
- **Took over labor unions- regulated production & wages**

# The Third Reich (3rd Empire)

- **Hitler- der Führer (the leader)**
- **Ignored Treaty of Versailles**
  - **Began building army & munitions**
  - **Brought artistic & intellectual activity under his control (many flee country- S. Freud, A. Einstein)**
  - **Used media to praise Nazi cause (propaganda)**
  - **Set up organizations for kids ages 6-18 to mold the youth to the Nazi cause (Hitler Jugend)**

- **Night of Long Knives- 6/30/1934**

- **Hitler was paranoid of anyone else having too much power/influence**
- **He had 1000' s of his own Brownshirts killed**

- **1935- Nuremburg Laws**

- **Stripped Jews of citizenship & right to hold office (not a citizen=no passport=no passport what can' t you do?)**  

---
- **Prevents Jews from attending school**



- **Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)**

- **November 9-10, 1938**

- **Nazis attacked Jews in the streets**

- **Vandalized Jewish businesses, homes, & synagogues**

- **Gestapo (Secret Police)**

- **Arrested Jews & opponents to gov' t**

- **Some were sent to concentration camps (prison camps)**



**Nationalism in Asia, Africa, and  
Latin America**

**A very brief overview**

# New Independent Countries

- **Republic of Turkey**
- **Iran**
- **Egypt- 1936 granted independence from Great Britain**
- **India**
  - **Mohandas Gandhi organized non-violent protests against Great Britain**



# China



- **Internal problems**
  - **Chiang Kai-shek - dictator**
  - **Mao Zedong- leader of China's communists**
- **Invaded by Japan at Manchuria**
- **Japan controlled most of eastern China by 1939**

# Japan



- **Late 1930' s military leaders gained power, believed problems could be solved by conquering others**
- **Problems- growing population and limited resources**

# Latin America



- **Most countries had independence by 1920's they were economically dependent on the US**
- **Good Neighbor Policy, FDR**
  - **US would refrain from intervention in Latin America**